

Filed: January 24, 2005
Serial No.: 10/552,656

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please approve the drawing changes shown in red on the attached annotated Fig. 3, and replace them with replacement Fig. 3.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-13 are respectfully requested. Applicant has attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Final Office Action dated April 12, 2007 (Paper No. 20070409) and believes the application is now in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, in better form for an Appeal. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staples (U.S. Pat. No. 2,870,823). Staples discloses a seat or back structure including side frame or rail members 10 and end frame members 11. Springs "S" having relatively square shaped loops are mounted on the side rails 10 at attaching ends 14. The ends 14 each include a loop portion 15 extending from the end at substantially a right angle to the spring and located on an inner sidewall of the rail 10. A bridge portion 16 of the spring is connected to the loop portion 15 and extends across the top of the rail 10, and an angular section 17 having a leg 18 is provided on the outer sidewall of the rail 10, where the leg is received in rail opening 19. (FIG. 4; col. 3, ll. 21-47).

In contrast, amended claim 1 now recites, among other things, "...said first end hook and said second end hook remaining free of contact with an inner sidewall of said first and second cross rails..." Applicant submits that as amended, claim 1 is patentably distinct from Staples.

Specifically, as seen in each of the embodiments of Staples, the first and second end hooks 15 are in contact with the first and second cross rails at an outer sidewall, a top, and an inner sidewall of the cross rails (FIGs. 3, 5, 8, 11 and 14), and are therefore not free of contact with an inner sidewall of the cross rails, as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 under Section 102(b).

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Platt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,733,625). Platt discloses a spring deck 10 including side strands 12 and cross wires 14 that are attached to the side strands at their ends. The side strands 12 include helically coiled springs 36, 40 that are attached thereto at one end and are attached to frame members 28, 30, 32 and 34 at an opposite end. The springs 36 have hooked ends that are received in holes 38, 44 generally centrally located in the frame members 28, 30, 32, 34. (FIGs. 1 and 2).

In contrast, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite, among other things, "...one or more longitudinal steel wires extending in a straight line between said first and second cross rails..." Applicant submits that as amended, claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinct from Platt.

Specifically, as seen in FIGs. 2, 3, 7 and 8 of Platt, longitudinal steel wires 12, 14, 36, 40, 46 are disclosed, but the wires do not extend in a straight line between the first and second cross rails, as recited in amended claims 1 and 8. Indeed, as seen in FIG. 2 of Platt, the wires 36, 40 and 46 are helically coiled, and


accordingly do not extend in a straight line, as recited in amended claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-13 under Section 102(b).

New claims 14-17 have been added to the present application and are respectfully submitted to be in allowable form.

In view of the above amendments, the application is respectfully submitted to be in allowable form, or in the alternative, in better form for an Appeal. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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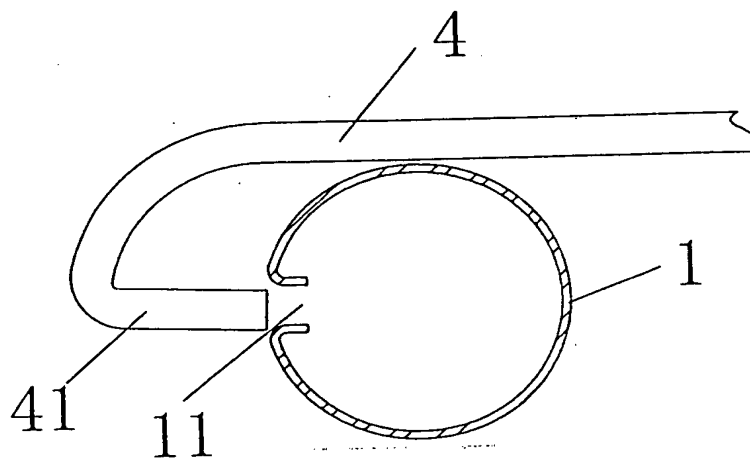


Figure 2

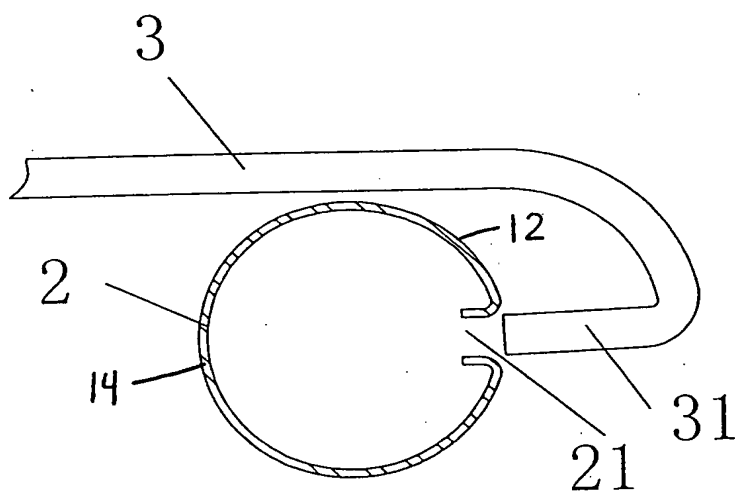


Figure 3